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THE HISTORY

— : *OF* : —

WHITINGHAM,

WINDHAM CO. VT.

1776-1886,

BY CLARK JILLSON,
A NATIVE OF THE TOWN.

WRITTEN FOR VOLUME V. OF THE VERMONT HISTORICAL GAZETTEER.

MISS HEMENWAY, Publisher.

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WHITINGHAM,

BY CLARK JILLSON

This Town has in its archives a copy of its original Charter, issued before the Revolution by the Province of New York.

WHITINGHAM.

NEW YORK AND NEW HAMPSHIRE

CLAIMS

OR THE FORTY YEARS CONTROVERSY.

In 1750, the Province of New York claimed all that tract of country now known as the State of Vermont, and the Province of New Hampshire exercised jurisdiction over the same territory to such an extent that it became known as the "New Hampshire Grants." While this difficulty was in progress, both New York and New Hampshire chartered towns within the disputed territory, and in some cases, the authority of both Provinces was exercised over the same township.

The controversy between these Governments lasted forty years, and resulted in admitting into the Union the State of Vermont, in 1791, it being the first accession to the thirteen original States.

CUMBERLAND TOWNSHIP.

Previous to the Revolution, the Southeastern part of the State was known as "Cumberland," and erected into a County by that name in 1776.

The Southwest corner of this County had been called "Cumberland Town-

ship," but had not been chartered by that name, therefore, its limits were undefined.

THE WHITING PETITION.

On the seventh day of January, 1767, a petition was presented to the Lieutenant-Governor of New York, by Nathan Whiting, Samuel Fitch, Eleazer Fitch, James Smedley, David Baldwin, Andrew Myers, Samuel Whiting, Robert Aiton, Amos Hitchcock and Nathan Haines Whiting, covering a part of this territory, which was referred to a Committee of His Majesty's Council, who reported favorably, and the petition was granted.

The Patent was ordered to issue, but for some unknown reason the matter was delayed for three years.

THE SEVEN GRANTEES.

On the twenty-sixth day of January, 1770, Col. Nathan Whiting renewed the petition in behalf of himself and his associates, setting forth that the lands prayed for were vacant and had never been granted, but were still vested in the Crown. He also stated that this land was *part of* a tract called "Cumberland," but that no township covering the same had ever been

granted. Upon this petition, Letters Patent were issued on the twelfth day of March, 1770.

The Grantees were seven British soldiers, who were thus rewarded by their fidelity in the King's service. Their names were Nathan Whiting, Samuel Fitch, Eleazer Fitch, James Smedley, Andrew Myers, Robert Aiton and Samuel Boyer, who were all the persons then interested in said lands.

THE TOWNSHIP NAMED WHITINGHAM.

The township thus granted and chartered was named Whitingham. It occupied a position near the Southwest corner of Cumberland county and was laid out six miles square, with more flourish and ceremony than attended the founding of Rome.

The following is the second petition of Col. Whiting, and the one upon which the grant was made, and the Patent or Charter issued:

"PETITION."

"To the Honorable Cadwallader Col-
den, Esquire,

"His Majesty's Lieutenant-Govern-
or and Commander-in-Chief of the
"Province of New York, and the Ter-
"ritories depending thereon, in Amer-
ica :—

"In Council.

"The Petition of Colonel Nathan
"Whiting, in behalf of himself and
"his associates,

"Humbly Showeth,

"That your Petitioner and his Asso-
"ciates, on their former Petition, ob-
"tained an Order of His late Excellen-
"cy, Sir Henry Moore, with the advice
"and consent of the Council, bearing
"date the twenty-seventh day of Janu-
"ary, One Thousand Seven Hundred
"and Sixty-seven, for granting to them

"and their Heirs, the quantity of Ten
"Thousand acres of a certain Tract of
"Land, lying on the west side of the
"Connecticut River, known by the
"name of 'The Township of Cumber-
"land.' That they have since procured
"an actual Survey of said Land, and
"find the Vacant Land to contain only
"the quantity of Seven Thousand
"acres. That the same, though part
"of the Lands formerly claimed by
"the Government of New Hampshire
"have not been granted by that Gov-
"ernment, but still remain Vacant,
"and Vested in the Crown.

"Your Petitioner therefore humbly
"prays, that the Letters Patent order-
"ed on the said former Petition, may
"Issue for the Quantity of Land found
"to be vacant, and in the Names of
"Nathan Whiting, Samuel Fitch,
"Eleazer Fitch, James Smedley, An-
"drew Myers, Robert Aiton and Sam-
"uel Boyer, who are all the persons at
"present interested in the premises.

"And your Petitioner, in behalf of
"himself and his Associates, Doth
"further pray, that the said Seven
"Thousand acres, together with the
"following Tracts granted to or sur-
"veyed for reduced Officers, to-wit:
"Three Thousand acres granted to the
"Petitioner, Nathan Whiting; Two
"Thousand acres granted to Lieuten-
"ant James Eddington; Two Thous-
"and acres granted to Lieutenant John
"Nordbergh; One Thousand acres
"granted to Lieutenant James Ether-
"ington; Three Thousand acres Sur-
"veyed for Captain John Walker; Two
"Thousand acres Surveyed for Lieu-
"tenant Thomas Gamble, and Two
"Thouand acres Surveyed for Lieu-
"tenant Dennis Carleton; may be erect-
"ed into a Township by the Name of
"Whitingham with the usual privileges.

"And your Petitioner, as in Duty bound, shall ever pray, &c.

"New York, 26th

"January, 1770.

"NATHAN WHITING, in behalf of himself and his "Associates."

"ORDER FOR PATENT TO ISSUE."

"By the Honorable Cadwallader Colden, Esquire, His Majesty's Lieutenant Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Province of New York, and the Territories depending thereon, in America. Andrew Elliott, Esquire, Receiver General of the said Province, and Alexander Colden Esquire, Surveyor General of the same Province, Commissioners appointed by His Majesty's Instructions for the Setting out of all Lands to be granted within the Province of New York.

"To all to Whom These Presents shall come: — GREETING: WHEREAS, "Nathan Whiting, Samuel Fitch, Eleazer Fitch, James Smedley, David Baldwin, Andrew Myers, Samuel Whiting, Robert Aiton, Amos Hitchcock and Nathan Haines Whiting, by their humble Petition, presented unto His late Excellency, Sir Henry Moore, Baronet, then Captain General and Governor-in-Chief of the said Province, and read in His Majesty's Council for the said Province, on the twenty-seventh day of January, which was in the Year of Our Lord, One Thousand Seven Hundred and Sixty-seven, did set forth, among other things, that there was a certain Tract of vacant, unpatented Land, vested in the Crown, lying on the west side of Connecticut River. adjoining to the present Line between the said Province and the Province of

"Massachusetts Bay, and known by the Name of 'Cumberland,' and that the Petitioners did intend, if they could obtain a Grant of Ten Thousand acres thereof, to make a speedy and effectual settlement thereon, and therefore the Petitioners did humbly pray His said late Excellency, by His Majesty's Letters Patent, to grant to such of the Petitioners and their Heirs, the Quantity of One Thousand acres of the said Tract of Land; which Petition having been then referred to a Committee of His Majesty's Council of the said Province of New York.

"His Majesty's Council of the said Province, did afterwards, on the same day, in Pursuance of the Report of the said Committee, humbly advise and consent, that His said late Excellency should, by His Majesty's Letters Patent, grant unto the said Petitioners, and their Heirs, the Quantity of Ten Thousand acres of the Lands described in their said Petition, under the 'Quit Rent Proviso's Limitations and Restrictions,' prescribed by His Majesty's Instructions. And, WHEREAS, the said Nathan Whiting, in behalf of himself and his Associates, hath, by his petition, presented unto the Honorable Cadwallader Colden Esquire, His Majesty's Lieutenant Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the said Province, and read in His Majesty's Council for the said Province, on the Twenty-first day of January, in the present Year of Our Lord, One Thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy, set forth:—

"That the Petitioner and his Associates have procured an actual Survey of the Lands aforesaid, and find the vacant Land to contain only the quantity of Seven Thousand acres.

"That the same, the part of the lands
"formerly claimed by the Government
"of New Hampshire, have not been
"granted by that Government, but still
"remain vacant and vested in the
"Crown; and therefore the petitioner
"did humbly pray that the Letters
"Patent ordered on the said former Pe-
"tition, might issue for the Quantity of
"Land so found to be vacant, and in
"the Names of Nathan Whiting, Sam-
"uel Fitch, Eleazer Fitch, James
"Smedley, Andrew Myers, Robert
"Aiton and Samuel Boyer, who are all
"the persons at present interested in the
"said Lands; and further that the said
"Seven Thousand acres of Land, to-
"gether with the following tracts, (part
"of the aforesaid tract called 'Cumber-
"land,') granted to, or surveyed for re-
"duced officers, to-wit:—Three Thou-
"sand acres granted to the Petitioner,
"Nathan Whiting; Two Thousand
"acres granted to Lieutenant James
"Eddington; Two Thousand acres
"granted to Lieutenant John Nord-
"bergh; One Thousand acres granted
"to Lieutenant Thomas Etherington;
"Three Thousand acres surveyed for,
"and granted to Captain John Walker
"Two Thousand acres surveyed for,
"and since granted to Lieutenant Thom-
"as Gamble; and Two Thousand acres
"surveyed for, and since granted to
"Lieutenant Dennis Carleton; might
"be erected into a Township by the
"Name of 'WHITINGHAM,' with
"the usual Privileges: On reading, and
"due consideration whereof, it was or-
"dered by the said Honorable Cad-
"wallader Colden Esquire, Lieutenant
"Governor and Commander-in-Chief
"as aforesaid, with the advice and con-
"sent of His Majesty's Council, that
"the Letters Patent, ordered on the
"said former Petition, should issue in

"the names of the said Nathan Whiting,
"Samuel Fitch, Eleazer Fitch, James
"Smedley, Andrew Myers, Robert
"Aiton and Samuel Boyer, for the
"quantity of the said Lands so found
"to be vacant, and the same, together
"with the several other Tracts above
"mentioned, be erected into a Town-
"ship by the name of 'WHITING-
"HAM,' with the usual Priveleges
"granted to other Townships within the
"said Province.

"In pursuance whereof, and in obe-
"dience to His Majesty's Instructions
"aforesaid, we, the Said Commis-
"sioners, do hereby certify that we have set
"out for them, the said Nathan Whi-
"ting, Samuel Fitch, Eleazer Fitch,
"James Smedley, Andrew Myers,
"Robert Aiton and Samuel Boyer, all
"that certain Tract or Parcel of Land
"within the Province of New York,
"situate, lying and being on the West
"side of the Connecticut River, in the
"County of Cumberland, being part of
"a larger Tract heretofore called and
"known by the name of 'Cumberland.'

"Beginning at the North-east corner
"of a Tract of Three Thousand acres
"of Land granted to the said Nathan
"Whiting, as a reduced Officer, and
"runs thence along the North Bounds
"of the last mentioned Tract, and the
"North Bounds of a Tract of Land
"granted to Lieutenant James Edding-
"ton, and the North Bounds of a Tract
"of Land granted to Lieutenant Thom-
"as Gamble, North, Eighty° West,
"Four Hundred and Fifteen Chains;
"then South, Ten°, West, One Hund-
"red and Seventy-eight Chains to the
"Line run for the Bounds of the
"Massachusetts Bay Government; then
"along the said Line North, Eighty°,
"West, Sixty-five Chains; then North,

"Ten°, East, Three Hundred and Ten
"Chains and Two Rods, to a Tract of
"Two Thousand acres of Land granted
"to Lieutenant Dennis Carleton; then
"along the South Bounds of the last
"mentioned Tract, South, Eighty°.
"East, One Hundred and Twenty-four
"Chains to a Tract of Three Thous-
"and acres of Land granted to Captain
"John Walker; then along the West
"Bounds of the last mentioned Tract
"South, Ten°, West, Seven Chains and
"Two Rods; then along the South
"Bounds of the last mentioned Tract
"and the South Bounds of a Tract
"of Two Thousand acres of Land
"granted to Lieutenant John Nord-
"bergh, Three Huudred and Fifty-six
"Chains; then South, Ten° West, One
"Hundred and Twenty-five Ghains to
"the place where this Tract first began,
"containiug Six Thousand Nine Hund-
"red acres of Land and the usual al-
"lowance for Highways, the said Tract
"of Six Thousand and Nine Hundred
"acres of Land, together with the oth-
"er Tracts aforesaid, to be erected into
"a Township by the name of *WHIT-*
INGHAM, and to be bounded, lim-
"ited, and described and follows:—

"That is to say, *Beginning* at a Hem-
"lock Tree and a Beach Tree growing
"close together, having two large stones
"laid between them, standing in the
"Line run for the Bounds of the Prov-
"ince of the Massachusetts Bay, and
"which Beach Tree is marked with
"these words: 'The Corner of Cum-
"berland,' and runs thence North,
"Ten° East, Six miles; then North,
"Eight° West, Six miles; then South,
"Ten ° West, six miles, to the afore-
"said Line run for the Bounds of the
"Bounds of the Province of the Massa-
"chusetts Bay, and then along the said
"Line South, Ten° East, Six miles to

"the said Place of Beginning, and in
"setting out the said Tract of Six
"Tousand Nine Hundred acres of
"Land, We, the Commissioners, have
"had regard for the profitable and un-
"profitable acres, and have taken care
"that the length thereof doth not ex-
"tend along the Banks of any River,
"otherwise conformable to His Majes-
"ty's Instructions.

"Given under our hands, in the City
"of New York, the First day of March
"One Thousand Seven Hundred and
"Seventy, in the Tenth year of the
"Reign of Our Sovereign Lord, George
"the Third, By the Grace of God, of
"Great Britian, France and Ireland,
"King, Defender of the Faith, and so
"forth.

"CADWALLDER COLDEN.

"ANDREW ELLIOTT.

"ALEXANDER COLDEN.

"THE CHARTER OF WHITINGHAM.

"George the Third, by the Grace of
"God, of Great Britian, France and
"Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith,
"and so forth. To all whom these
"Presents shall come, *Greeting:*

"WHEREAS, our loving Subjects,
"Nathan Whiting, Samuel Fitch,
"Eleazer Fitch, James Smedley, Dav-
"id Baldwin, Andrew Myers, Samuel
"Whiting, Robert Aiton, Amos Hitch-
"cock and Nathan Haines Whiting,
"by their humble Petition, presented
"unto our late trusty and well beloved
"Sir Henry Moore, Baronet, then our
"Captain General and Commander-in-
"Chief of our Province of New York,
"and read in our Council for our said,
"Province, on the Twenty-seventh
"day of January, which was in the
"Year of Our Lord One Thousand,
"Seven Hundred and Sixty-seven, did
"set forth, among other things, that
"there was a certain Tract of vacant,

"unpatented Land vested in us, Lying
"on the West side of Connecticut Riv-
"er, adjoining to the present line be-
"tween our said Province and the
"Province of Massachusetts Bay, and
"commonly known by the name of
"Cumberland," and that the Petition-
"ers did intend, if they could obtain
"a Grant of Ten Thousand acres there-
"of, to make a speedy and effectual set-
"tlement thereon; and therefore the
"Petitioners did humbly pray our said
"late Captain General and Governor-
"in-Chief to grant to each of the pe-
"titioners and their respective heirs;
"the Quauity of One Thousand acres
"of the said Tract of Land, which pe-
"tition having been then referred to a
"Committee of our Council for our
"said Province, our said Council did
"afterwards, on the same day, in pur-
"suance of the Report of the said Com-
"mittee, humbly advise and consent,
"that our said late Captain General and
"Governor-in-Chief should by our
"Letters Patent, grant unto the said
"Petitioners and their heirs, the Quan-
"tity of Ten Thousand acres of the
"Lands described in their said Petition,
"under the "Quit Rent" Proviso's Limi-
"tations and Restrictions," prescribed
"by our Royal Instructions; and
"whereas, the said Nathan Whiting in
"behalf of himself and his Associates
"hath by his humble petition presented
"unto our trusty and well beloved
"Cadwallader Colden, Esquire, and
"Lieutenant Governor and Comman-
"der-in-Chief of our said province,
"and read in our Council for our said
"Province, on the Twenty-first day of
"January, now last past, set forth, that
"the Petitioner and his Associates had
"procured an actual Survey of the Lands
"aforesaid, and find the vacant Land
"to contain only the Quantity of Seven
"Thousand acres; That the same tho'
"part of the Lands formerly claimed
"by the Government of New Hamp-
"shire have not been granted by that
"Government, but still remain vacant
"and vested in us; and therefore the
"Petitioner did humbly pray that the
"Letters Patent ordered on said former
"Petition, might issue for the Quantity
"of Land so found to be vacant, and in
"the names of Nathan Whiting, Samuel
"Fitch, Eleazer Fitch, James Smedley,
"Andrew Myers, Robert Aiton and
"Samuel Boyer, who are all the Per-
"sons at present interested in the said
"Land; and further, that the said Sev-
"en Thousand acres of Land, together
"with the following Tracts, (part of the
"aforesaid Tract called 'Cumberland,')
"granted to, or surveyed for reduced
"Officers, to-wit:—Three Thousand
"acres granted to the Petitioner Nathan
"Whiting; Two Thousand acres grant-
"ed to Lieutenant James Eddington;
"Two Thousand acres granted to Lieu-
"tenant John Nordbergh; one Thou-
"sand acres granted to Lieutenant
"Thomas Etherington; Three Thou-
"sand acres Surveyed for, and since
"granted to Captain John Walker; Two
"Thousand acres surveyed for, and
"since granted to Lieutenant Thomas
"Gamble; and Two Thousand acres
"surveyed for, and since granted to
"Lieutenant Dennis Carleton; might be
"erected into a Township by the name
"of WHITINGHAM, with the usual
"Privileges; on reading and due con-
"sideration wherof, it was ordered by
"our said Lieutenant Governor and
"Commander-in-Chief, with the advice
"and consent of our said Council, that
"the Letters Patent ordered on the said
"former petition, should issue in the
"names of the said Nathan Whiting,
"Samuel Fitch, Eleazer Fitch, James

"Smedley, Andrew Myers, Robert Aiton and Samuel Boyer, for the Quantiy of the said Lands so found to be vacant, and that the same, together with the several other tracts above mentioned, to be erected into a Township by the name of WHIT- INGHAM, with the usual Privileges granted to other Townships within our said Province :

"In pursuance whereof, and in obedience to our said Royal Instructions, our Commissioners appointed for the setting out all Lands to be granted within our said Province, have set out for them, the said Nathan Whiting, Samuel Fitch, Eleazer Fitch, James Smedley, Andrew Myers, Robert Aiton, and Samuel Boyer, all that certain Tract or Parcel of Land within the Province of New York, situate, lying and being on the West side of Connecticut River, in the County of Cumberland, being part of a larger Tract, heretofore called and known by the name of 'Cumberland.'

"Beginning at the North-east corner of a tract of three thousand acres of Land granted to the said Nathan Whiting, as a reduced Officer; and runs thence along the North Bounds of the last mentioned Tract, and the North Bounds of a Tract of Land granted to Lieutenant James Eddington, and the North Bounds of a Tract of Land granted to Lieutenant Thomas Gamble, North, Eighty°, West, Four Hundred and Fifteen Chains then South, Ten°, West, One Hundred and Seventy-eight Chains, to the line run for the Bounds of the Massachusetts Bay Government, then along the said line North, Eighty, West, Sixty-five Chains; then North, Ten°, East, Three Hundred and Ten Chains and Two Rods, to a Tract of Two

"Thousand acres of Land granted to Lieutenant Dennis Carleton; then along the South Bounds of the last mentioned Tract, South, Eighty°, East, One Hundred and Twenty-four Chains, to a Tract of Three Thousand acres of land granted to Captain John Walker; then along the West Bounds of the last mentioned Tract, South, Ten°, West, Seven Chains and Two Rods; then along the South Bounds of the said last mentioned Tract, and the South Bounds of a Tract of Two Thousand acres of Land granted to Lieutenant John Nordbergh, Three Hundred and Fifty-six Chains; then South, Ten°, West, One Hundred and Twenty-five Chains, to the Place where this Tract first began, containing Six Thousand Nine Hundred acres of Land, and the usual allowance for Highways :

"And in setting out the said Tract of Six Thousand Nine Hundred acres of Land, our said Commissioners have had regard to the profitable and unprofitable acres; and have taken care that the length thereof doth not extend along the Banks of any River otherwise than is conformable to our said Royal Instructions, as by a certificate thereof under their hands, bearing date the first day of this instant, Month of March, and entered on Record in our Secretary's Office for our said Province, among other Things may more fully appear; Which said Tract of Land set out as aforesaid, according to our said Royal Instructions; we being willing to grant to the said Petitioners their heirs and assigns forever.

"Know Ye, that by our special Grace, certain knowledge and meer motion, we have given, granted, ratified and confirmed, and Do by these

"Presents for us, our heirs and successors, give, grant, ratify and confirm unto them, the said Nathan Whiting, Samuel Fitch, Eleazer Fitch, James Smedley, Andrew Myers, Robert Aiton and Samuel Boyer, their heirs and assigns forever, all that the Tract or Parcel of Land aforesaid, set out, abutted, bounded and described in manner and form as above mentioned, together with all and singular the Tenements, Hereditaments, Emoluments and Appurtenances thereunto, belonging or appertaining, and also all our Estate, Right, Title, Interest, Possession, Claim and Demand whatsoever, of, in, and to the same Lands and Premises and every Part and Parcel thereof; and the Reversion and Reversions, Remainder and Be-manders, Rents, Issues and Profits thereof, and of every Part and Parcel thereof.

"Except, and always reserved, out of this present Grant, unto us our heirs and successors forever, all mines of Gold and Silver, and also all white or other sorts of Pine Trees fit for masts, of the growth of Twenty-four Inches Diameter and upward, at Twelve inches from the earth, for masts for the Royal Navy of us, our heirs and successors.

"To have and to hold one full and equal Seventh Part, (the whole into seven equal Parts to be divided) of the said Tract or Parcel of Land, Tenements, Hereditaments and Premises, by these Presents granted, ratified and confirmed, and every Part and Parcel thereof with their and every of their appurtenances, (except as in herein before excepted,) unto each of them our Grantees above mentioned their heirs and assigns respectively, to their only proper and

"separate use and behoof respectively forever, as Tenants in Common, and not as joint Tenants.

"To be holden of us our heirs and successors in fee and Common Socage as of our Manor of East Greenwich, in our County of Kent, within our Kingdom of Great Britian; yielding, rendering and paying therefor yearly, and every year, forever unto us, our heirs and successors, at our Custom House in our City of New York, unto our or their Collector or Receiver General therefor, the Time being on the Feast of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, commonly called 'Lady Day,' the yearly Rent of Two Shillings and Six pence Sterling, for each and every hundred acres of the above granted Lands, and so in Proportion for any lesser Quantity thereof:

"Saving only except for such Part of said Lands allowed for Highways as above mentioned, in Lieu and stead of all other Rents, Services, Dues, Duties, and Demands whatsoever for the hereby granted Lands and Premises, or any Part thereof:

"And we be willing, according to the Prayer of said Petitioners, to create and make the said Tract of Land hereby granted a Township, with such other of the adjacent Land as are included and comprehended within the Bounds and Limits following, that is to say:

"Beginning at a Hemlock Tree and a Beech Tree growing close together, having two large stones laid between them, standing in the line run for the Bounds of the Province of the Massachusetts Bay, and which Beech Tree is marked with these words, 'The Corner of Cumberland,' and runs thence North, Ten°, East, Six miles,

"Then North, Eighty , West, Six miles; then South, Ten°, West, Six miles to the aforesaid line run for the Bounds of the Province of Massachusetts Bay, and then along the said "South, Ten°, East, Six miles to the Place of Beginning

"And to grant to the Inhabitants of the same, such Powers and Privileges as the Inhabitants of other Townships in our said Province of New York have and do enjoy.

"Know ye therefore, that of our especial Grace, certain knowledge and meer motion, We do by these presents create, erect and constitute the said Tract of Land hereby granted, and all other the Lands included within the Bounds and Limits last mentioned, and every Part and Parcel thereof, one Township forever hereafter, to be, continue and remain, "and by the Name of WHITINGHAM forever hereafter to be known ; "and for the better and more easily carrying on and managing the publick affairs and Business of the said township our Royal Will and Pleasure, and "we do hereby for us, our heirs and successors, give and grant to the Inhabitants of the said township all the Powers, Authorities, Privileges and advantages heretofore given and granted to, or legally enjoyed by, all or either our other townships within our said Province, and we also ordain and establish that there shall be forever hereafter in said township one Assessor, one Treasurer, two Overseers of the Highways, two Overseers of the Poor, one Collector and four Constables, elected and chosen out of the Inhabitants of the said township yearly and every year, on the first Tuesday in May, at the most publick place in the said township,

"by the majority of the Free-holders thereof, then and there met and assembled for that purpose; hereby declaring that wheresoever the first election in the said township shall be held, the future Elections shall forever thereafter be held in the same Place, as near as may be, and giving and granting to the said Officers as chosen, Power and Authority to exercise their said several and respective Offices during one whole year from such Election, and until others are legally chosen and elected in their room and stead, as fully and amply as any the like Officers have or legally may use or exercise their offices in our said Province; and in case any or either of the said Officers of the said township should die or remove from the said township before the time of their annual service shall be expired, or refuse to act in the Offices for which they shall respectively be chosen, then our Royal Will and Pleasure further is, and we do hereby direct and ordain and require the Free-holders of the said township, to meet at the Place where the annual Election shall be held for said township, and choose other or others of the said Inhabitants of the said township in the Place and stead of him or them so dying, removing or refusing to act, within forty days next after such contingency; and to prevent any undue Election in this case, We do hereby ordain and require that in every vacancy in the Office of Assessors, the Treasurer, and in either of the other offices the Assessors of the township shall, within ten days next after any such vacancy first happens, appoint the day for such Election, and give publick notice thereof in writing under his or their hands by

"affixing such notice on the Church
"Door, or other most publick Place in
"the said township, at the least ten
"days before the day appointed for
"such Election, and in default thereof,
"We do hereby require that the Offi-
"cer or Officers of the said township or
"the survivor of them, who in the or-
"der they are hereinbefore mentioned
"shall next succeed him or them so
"making default within ten days after
"such default, to appoint the day for
"such Election, and give notice there-
"of as aforesaid, hereby giving and
"granting that such person or persons
"as shall be so chosen by the Majority
"of such of the Free-holders of said
"township as shall meet in manner
"hereby directed shall have, hold, ex-
"ercise and enjoy the Office or Offices
"to which he or they shall be so elected
"and chosen, from the time of such
"Election until the first Tuesday in
"May, then next following, and until
"other or others be legally chosen in
"his or their Place and stead, as fully
"as the person or persons in whose
"Place he or they shall be chosen
"might or could have done by virtue of
"these presents, and we do hereby will
"and direct that this method shall for-
"ever hereafter be used for the filling
"up all vacancies that shall happen in
"any or either of the said Offices be-
"tween the annual Elections above
"directed, Provided always and upon
"Condition, nevertheless, that if our
"said Grantees their heirs and assigns,
"or some one of them, shall not within
"three years next after the date of this
"our present Grant settle on the said
"tract of Land hereby granted, so
"many Families as shall amount to one
"Family for every thousand acres of
"the same tract, or if they our said
"Grantees or one of them, their or one

"of their heirs or assigns shall not also
"within three years to be computed as
"aforesaid plant and effectually culti-
"vate at the least three acres for every
"fifty acres of such of the hereby
"granted Lands as are capable of culti-
"vation, or if they our said Grantees
"or any of them, they or any of their
"heirs or Assigns, or any other person
"or persons, by their or any of their
"Privity, Consent or Procurement shall
"fell, cut down or otherwise destroy
"any of the Pine Trees by these
"presents reserved to us, our heirs and
"successors, or hereby intended so to
"be, without the Royal License of us,
"our heirs or successors, for so doing
"first had and obtained ; that then and
"in any of these cases this our present
"Grant and everything therein con-
"tained shall cease and be absolutely
"void, and the Lands and Premises
"hereby granted shall revert to, and
"vest in us, our heirs and successors, as
"if this our present Grant had not
"been made, anything hereinbefore
"contained to the contrary in any wise
"notwithstanding ;

"Provided further and upon condi-
"tion also nevertheless, and we do here-
"by for us, our heirs and successors
"direct and appoint that this our pres-
"ent Grant, shall be registered and en-
"tered on Record within six months
"from the date thereof in our Secre-
"tary's Office, in our City of New
"York, in our said Province, in one of
"the Books of Patents, there remain-
"ing, and that a Docquet thereof should
"be also entered in our Auditor's Of-
"fice there for our said Province, and
"that in default thereof this our pres-
"ent Grant shall be void and of none
"effect, anything before in these Pres-
"ents contained to the contrary thereof
"in any wise notwithstanding ; and we

"do. moreover, of our especial Grace
"certain Knowledge and meer motion,
"consent and agree that this our pres-
"ent Grant being registered, recorded
"and a Docquet thereof made as before
"directed and appointed shall be good
"and effectual in the Law to all In-
"tents, Constructions and Purposes
"whatsoever against us, our heirs and
"successors, notwithstanding any mis-
"reciting, misbounding, misnaming or
"other Imperfections or omissions of,
"in, or in any wise concerning the
"above granted, or hereby mentioned
"or intended to be granted, Lands,
"Tenements, Hereditaments, Premises
"or any Part thereof.

"In Testimony whereof we have
"caused these our Letters to be made
"Patent and the Great Seal of our said
"Province of New York to be here-
"unto affixed.

"Witness our said trusty and well
"beloved Cadwallader Colden, Es-
"quire, our said Lieutenant Governor
"and Commander-in-Chief of our said
"Province of New York, and the Ter-
"ritories depending thereon, in Ameri-
"ca, at our Fort, in our City of New
"York, the Twelfth day of March, in
"the Year of our Lord, One Thousand
"Seven Hundred and Seventy, and of
"our Reign the Tenth.



GENERAL DESCRIPTION.

Whitingham, thus bounded, de-
scribed and Patented, under the Great
Seal of the province of New York,
with so much display of Royalty and
legal precision, was then a wilderness,
six miles square.

The Grantees were not settlers, and
probably never saw their Royal dona-
tion.

This township is located in the
Southeast corner of Windham county,
and bounded on the North by Wil-
mington, East by Halifax, South by
Heath and Rowe, in Massachusetts,
and West by Readsborough.

The surface is hilly, but as a general
thing the high lands are well adapted
to grazing and the other crops. Im-
mense forests formerly covered the
soil, and beech, birch, maple, spruce-
ash and hemlock were abundant, but
the original growth was largely wasted
nearly a century ago, by being burned
to the ground, for the ashes, and to
get rid of the timber for which there
was no market.

The center of the town is located up-
on an eminence belonging to a range
of hills running nearly north and
south, through the entire length of the
town, with Deerfield River at their feet
on the west, and North River on the
east.

WHITINGHAM SCENERY.

From the summit of these hills may
be seen a large tract of picturesque
country, embracing a portion of the
Green Mountain range, while near,
and several hundred feet below, Sadaw-
ga Pond glistens like a diamond.

Among these elevations is Burring-
ton Hill, noted for its bleakness dur-
ing the winter months, Streeter Hill is
another slighty location, from which
may be seen Haystack Mountain in
Searsburg, the Monadnock in New
Hampshire, Wachusett and Greylock
in Massachusetts.

In the Northeasterly part of the
town near the village of Jacksonville
and east of North River, is a rocky
elevation known as "Hosley Hill;" and
on the other side of the river are the
"Holbrook" and "Tippet Hills."

The hills in the Westerly part of the town near Lime Hollow, and along the Easterly banks of Deerfield River for several miles are extremely rugged, and the land about them unsuited to cultivation. The best crop raised here is "all in your eye," and consists of the most magnificent natural scenery, rarely surpassed by any found in foreign lands.

Deerfield River, a stream of considerable size and importance, flows through a portion of the town, at its north-west corner, and also at its south-west corner, which is in conformity with the original "set out," wherein care was taken that the "Length thereof doth not extend along the Banks of any River otherwise than is conformable to our said Royal Instructions."

The stream rises in Stratton and runs in a south-easterly direction for about 50 miles and falls into the Connecticut near Greenfield, Mass.

North River runs in a southerly direction, through the easterly part of the town, and unites with the Deerfield near Shelburne Falls, Mass. There are numerous other streams in town flowing north, south, east and west, which indicate an uneven surface, well supplied with water. These streams furnish motive power for numerous industries.

There are no large bodies of water in this town, for the reason that there is not room enough between the hills; but there are several small sheets of water of more or less importance. Sadawga pond is the largest and best known. It is located within a mile of the center of the town, where the first church was built, in a westerly direction. It is estimated to cover from three to five hundred acres, with indications that it

has sometimes been more than three times its present size. It bears upon its surface a floating island of some fifty acres in extent. This accumulation is increasing from year to year and within the last fifty years has been changed in form and size very materially.

It is claimed this pond was named in honor of a "lone Indian" who continued to dwell about its shores after his tribe had "moved on". It is said that "old Sadawga" lived by hunting and fishing and that he occasionally made a trip to Northampton and Springfield to dispose of his furs and other articles in the market, and that while going down Deerfield River in his canoe, he was wrecked at Shelburne Falls and drowned. As this Indian was known to the first settlers of the town, his traditional fate is not improbable.

In the northerly part of the town there is a pond, in early times called Beaver Dam, but of late Fuller Pond. It formerly covered fifty acres, and is so situated as to have an outlet at each end, both of which reach the Deerfield, one near the north part of Whitingham and the other near Shelburne Falls, but nearly thirty miles apart.

This body of water has decreased in size so that in a dry season less than five acres are covered with water. Traces of the old dam, probably built centuries ago, are still visible and under the surface may be found parts of trees of considerable size bearing tooth marks of the beaver.

Near the north-east corner of the town is a sheet of water known as Robert's Pond, covering some thirty acres. A small stream runs from it, but none into it from the surface except the rainfall, which can have but little to do with the amount of water it contains, as the

water-shed is quite limited. The water in this pond is said to be very deep. Trout were abundant here years ago, but now there are two fishermen to one fish.

There are several other ponds in town, but not of sufficient importance for description.

GEOLOGY OF THE TOWNSHIP.

Whitingham contains geological features worthy of notice. The rock formation is gneiss, but its component parts are not so blended as to constitute granite suitable for building purposes.

In the easterly part of the town talcose schist abounds to some extent, but not to render it of great value. The western half of the town abounds in limestone of excellent quality, and in such proximity to the surface as to render it comparatively easy to be quarried.

Sixty years ago the manufacture and sale of lime constituted the principle business of the town, and next to agriculture was the chief industry.

BOWLDERS.

Near North River about one mile below the present village of Jacksonville may be seen a boulder 61 feet in circumference and 10 feet high above the ground. Its angles have not been worn as is commonly the case with bowlders, but looks like a block split from an immense ledge and not transported any considerable distance.

Near this place are several gravel mounds, produced by the action of the ice and water during the glacial period, and it is believed that this rock was formerly carried down this valley in a mass of gravel which prevented its being worn by attrition.

This result of glacial action is often noticed, and it is not uncommon to

meet with a moraine, even in this hilly country, and these deposits are made up largely of gravel interspersed with bowlders of various sizes, from a few pounds to several tons.

The largest boulder in New England, called "The Green Mountain Giant" may be seen in the westerly part of Whitingham upon a hill 500 feet above the Deerfield, and within two miles of that stream. It stands upon a flat rock, is 40 feet in length, its horizontal circumference 125 feet, its height 32 feet, its cubic contents 40,000 feet and its weight 3,400 tons. The angles of this rock are quite sharp, indicating that its journey, if a long one, was made when incased in ice or a mass of earth.

There are several other large bowlders in the town, notably the one standing on a flat rock at the highest point on Tenny Hill, much higher than the one last mentioned, and within half a mile of Massachusetts line.

Gold, silver and lead have been discovered in several localities, but not in quantities to warrant an extensive outlay in mining operations, though some of the ore, recently found, is said to be quite rich.

There are numerous veins of quartz in the rock formation where traces of gold may be found, but whether these veins are sufficiently extensive and rich to become remunerative is yet undetermined. A mining company was formed here and incorporated by the Legislature in 1867, but no startling results have been developed during the 17 years of its existence.

In the westerly part of the town, in the village of Sadawga, is

A MINERAL SPRING

to which many people resort on account of its medicinal qualities. An analy-

sis of the waters show that they contain muriate of lime, carbonate of lime, muriate of magnesia, carbonate and per-oxide of iron, alumina with an acid trace. It is said to be a specific for cutaneous eruptions, scrofulous humors, dropsy, gravel, chronic ulcers, liver complaint and many other diseases. This spring was discovered in 1822, and has been sought for more or less ever since. David Eames, a much respected citizen of the town, claimed that the use of these waters saved his life.

While this water has some medicinal qualities, its taste is not much different from ordinary spring water, and its hygenic properties, as represented by the chemist are in no way indicated by the taste.

THE NATIVE FORESTS.

In early times the town was covered with a heavy growth of timber, beech, birch and maple being the principal hard woods and spruce, hemlock and balsam the soft.

No pine timber, of any considerable value, ever grew in Whitingham, and only now and then an oak. Hemlock trees in some parts of the town were of immense size, ranging from three to five feet in diameter.

It will be seen that the town possessed few attractions for the settler, while there were many obstacles to contend with before the soil could be made productive. The climate, the location, uneven surface, the lack of a well defined policy in matters of government, all conspired to discourage a speedy and successful settlement; but

THE PIONEERS

were a hardy race; courted the opposition of the elements and of man. They

caused the forests to vanish before their sturdy stroke; took issue with wild beasts and unfriendly men; established their independence by solemn decree and forced civilization to establish a new, free State, the first to be admitted into the Federal Union.

The inhabitants of Whitingham bore an active and honorable part in all these struggles, and from that day to the present time have shown themselves worthy of the Green Mountain State.

EARLY SETTLEMENT.

On the 12th. day of March 1770, by virtue of a New York patent, Whitingham became the property of the following grantees:

Nathan Whiting, Samuel Fitch
Eleazer Fitch, James Smedley,
Andrew Myers, Robert Aiton and
Samuel Boyer.

It was ten years before the town was organized by the choice of officers, during which time large accessions had been made to its population. The census of Cumberland was taken in 1770-'1: which discloses the following facts:

White males under 16	3
" over and under 60.....	4
" females under 16	3
" " over and under 60	4
Total 14	

Heads of families4

Whitingham as laid out in 1770 was only a part of Cumberland.

SILAS HAMILTON and ROBERT BRATTEN. were the first settlers and were in town as early as 1770.

The Bratten family came from Cole-raine to Whitingham in 1770. They came around through Wilmington. — Mrs. Bratten, the wife of Robert was a

brave and resolute woman. On their way to Whitingham from Coleraine, Mrs. Bratten climbed a tall tree in Wilmington and there discovered the valley of the Deerfield River. They pursued their course in that direction and marked trees as they went. Their house was some distance up the river from where Cyrus Wheeler now resides. They returned to Coleraine in the fall and came back three times before they made a permanent residence in Whitingham. Here they commenced farming in a small way. A small iron kettle served as water-pail, milk-pail and was also used for cooking. — The milk of one cow was divided among several families. On the 19th of May 1780, known as the 'Dark Day', Mrs. Bratten set out an apple tree on this farm which has since been called grandmother's apple tree.

Silas Hamilton, was from Western, (now Warren) Mass. and became an extensive land owner in Whitingham.

He was engaged in

SHAYS REBELLION

and for this offense was tried and sentenced to stand one hour in pillory and be publickly whipped on his naked back 20 stripes. The charge against him was "for stirring up sedition in this Commonwealth."

Mr. Hamilton was not alone in this business, as Vermont was the place of refuge for many of the insurgents, including Shays, himself.

IMMIGRATION OF FEMALES.

Not less than 700 females removed to Vermont within six weeks from the three western counties of Massachusetts. They moved because they wanted to.

Some were captured and returned to Massachusetts

ADAM WHEELER

of Hubbardston Mass. was captured in Vermont by a party of Government men under Royal Tyler, Esq. but they were only able to hold him four hours, when he was liberated by a party of 40 sympathizers from over the line in the State of New York.

JAMES WHITE of Coleraine was convicted of high treason and sentenced to death, but was subsequently pardoned.

FIRST THINGS.

Mr. Hamilton was the first Representative from Whitingham to the Legislature of Vermont in 1778.

While this early settlement was in progress, the town was without roads and the people were obliged to travel by marked trees. They were obliged to have their grain ground as far away as Greenfield, transporting it there and back on foot.

Tradition tells us that one of the early settlers went to Greenfield on foot, bought an iron, five-pail kettle and half a bushel of meal, both of which he brought on his back over 20 miles, without food, except a little meal which he mixed with water in his hand.

Mrs. Dalrymple was employed to go to mill more frequently than any other person; she being a very small woman could carry two bushels of grain and ride herself. She died at the age of 103.

The first child born in the town was John Nelson, Jr.

Thomas Riddle was the first person who died in town. He was taken sick while on a visit. His home was in Connecticut. He could not be carried home as there was no way of transportation except on horseback. He was buried in Whitingham.

During the ten years from the time this town began to be settled up to 1780 when it was organized, the inhabitants were quite extensively engaged in an industry which might have been remunerative at the time, but of no permanent advantage.

This was cutting wood and timber to be burned for the ashes, the same being leached and the lye boiled down to salts and potash. These salts were put in sacks and transported on horseback to Greenfield and elsewhere, to be exchanged for commodities. Great care had to be exercised while this material was in transit, as the sacks were liable to leak, in which case the horse would have to suffer. To avoid this difficulty they would peel sheets of birch bark as they went along and put them under the sack to prevent galling the horse.

This method of clearing off the land and carrying away what the soil so much needed, worked an injury to the farms from which they will never recover. If one half the cleared land in this town was covered with the original timber, to-day it would greatly add to the value of the town.

We have now passed over a period of great privation on the part of the settlers, who had cast their lot on a sterile soil, away from the comforts of civilization, among wild beasts, in a climate unfriendly to pioneer life

Up to this time there is no record of any religious expression on the part of the people, or that any clergyman had ventured to set foot upon the soil of Whitingham.

It was now near the close of the Revolution. Independence had been declared by the Colonies four years, and by Vermont three years. The English government was not much re-

spected in Vermont, and the inhabitants sought to acquire titles to their lands through the General Assembly. About 1780, Silas Hamilton and seven others petitioned for a grant of 3,000 acres of land in Whitingham.

This petition was referred to a committee, who reported through their chairman as follows:

"The Honl : General Assembly : Your Com : tee report as their opinion, that the three thousand acres of land in the Township of Whitingham as Referred to in the Petition of Silas Hamilton to be granted to said Hamilton and the settlers named in said Petition thay Paying a Meat Consideration --- and that his Exelancy and Council be Directed to Make out a Charter of Incorporation for the same with the Reservations and Restrictions Neces-sary. —

John Throop, Chairman."

This report was referred to the Governor and Council and the following grant was issued:

“STATE OF VERMONT

L. S.

THE GOVENOR: COUNCIL AND
GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE
FREEMEN OF VERMONT.

TO ALL PERSONS TO WHOM THESE
PRESENTS SHALL COME. GREETING :-
KNOW YE, that WHEREAS it has been
represented to us by our worthy friend,
Silas Hamilton, and associates, tht at
there is a certain tract of vacant land
within this State which has not been
heretofore granted, which they pray
may be granted to them, we have
therefore thot fit for the due encour-
agement of settleing a new plantation
within this State and other valuable con-
siderations us hereto moving, and do
by these presents, in the name and by
the authority of the Freemen of Ver-
mont, give and grant unto the said Si-
las Hamilton and the several persons

hereafter named, his associates, viz— Thomas Sterns, John Butler, James Roberts, Abner Moor, James Angel, Charles Dodge and Eliphahlet Hyde, bounded as follows, viz: Beginning at the south-east of Wilmington and the north-east corner of Whitingham at a beach tree marked P P M. thence bounded on Wilmington north, eighty°, west, 176 chains and 25 links to a small maple tree marked P P M. thence south 10°, west, 171 chains and 25 links to a large beach tree marked M. C † thence south 80°, east 176 chains and 25 links, to a large hemlock tree on Halifax line, thence bounded on Halifax line north, 10°, east 171 chains and 25 links to the first mentioned bounds, containing three thousand acres. And the said tract of land is hereby declared to be joined to the township of Whitingham, or entitled to receive equal priveleges and immunities in connection with said town as other corporated Towns within this State do by law exercise and enjoy.

To have and to hold the same granted premises with every appurtenance and privelege to them and their respective heirs and assigns as above described to their free and full enjoyment forever.

In testimony whereof, we have caused the Seal of this State to be affixed, this 15th. day of March, A. D. 1780, and in the third year of the Independence of this State.

THOMAS CHITTENDEN.

JOSEPH FAY, SEC'T Y."

It will be seen by this instrument, that the original "lay out" of Whitingham was recognized and its boundaries undisturbed, this being the first grant in the town under the authority of the State of Vermont.

On the 8th, day of June, 1780, the Govenor and Council passed the following resolution:-

"Resolved that the price of 3000 acres of land granted to Silas Hamilton and Company, in Whitingham, be one shilling per acre, money made good,

as in the year 1774, in lieu of two shillings which this Council set in March last."

The criminal code of Vermont in 1780, made nine offences punishable by death, as follows: treason, murder, arson, rape, bestiality, sodomy, bearing false witness against a person for the purpose of causing his death; mutilation: either by cutting out or disabling the tongue, or putting out an eye, or by emasculation, and blaspheming the name of God the Father, Son, or Holy Ghost.

The first town meeting of which we have any record, was held on Thursday, March 30th, 1780, when the following business was transacted:

"At an annual Town meeting March 30, 1780, the men whose names are under Ritten ware Choser to Ofis. Town Clark: Eliphahlet Hyde. Selectmen: James Angel, Eliphahlet Hyde, Silas Hamilton. Treasurer: Silas Hamilton. Constables: Abner More, Levi Shumway. Highway Surveyors: Abner More, Thos. Hunt, Ebenezer Davis, John Nelson Jr. Listers: Thos. Stearns, Eliphahlet Hyde. Collectors: Levi Shumway, Abner More. Grand Juror: Thomas Stearns. Sealer of weights and measures; John Butler. Deer Rief: Amasa Shumway, Thomas Stearns.

At this time the town had a population of not less than 200.

The grand list of 1781 shows who paid the taxes at that time and indicates to some extent the population of the town.

FIRST GRAND LIST.

"John Nelson, John Nelson Jr., Benga' Blodgett, Samuel Day, John Blushfield, Thomas Blodgett, Thomas Day, John Howard, Jonnhan Shumway, James Howard, Amos Green, James Reed, Benj. Blodgett Jr., Ebenezer Davis, Issac Fuller, Samuel Nelson, Leonard Pike, Eliphahlet Gusten, Daniel Wilcox, Elijah French, Daniel

Holloway, Luther Washburn, Bille Clark, Levi Shumway, Amasa Shumway, Benijah Lampher, James Angel, John Butler, Samuel Butler, Elihue Blake, Jabez Foster, Calvin Fuller, Levi Boyd, Charles Dodge, John Rugg, Nathan Lee, Henry Lee, Abner More, Thomas Hunt, Jonathan Barton, Jonathan Dix, Timothy S. Burton, Capt. Eliphalet Hide, Moses Hide, Jonathan Edgecomb, Roger Edgecomb, Beriah Sprage, Thomas Sterns, Sterling Sterns, Nathaniel Davis, Brinsle Peters, Silas Hambleton, Robert Bratten, Robert Bratte Jr., Joseph Coleman."

The listers for this year were Henry Lee, Benjamin Blodgett and Eliphalet Gusten.

The Brattens, Robert and Moses, and Leonard Pike, settled in the north west part of the town, and James Angel, Eliphalet Gusten and Benijah Lamphear in the south-east part. John Butler and Silas Hamilton settled in the north-eastern section. Butler built the first grist-mill in town on North River.

The earliest deed on record was from Robert Bratten of Whitingham to John Torrey of Halifax, and is dated Jan. 2nd. 1780.

AN ATTEMPT FOR ANOTHER NEW STATE.

A portion of New Hampshire and a portion of Vermont attempted, on two occasions, to unite as a separate State. When the second effort was made, in February 1781, Whitingham favored the union. A proposition was also made for the union of a part of Vermont with New York, and Whitingham, on the 16th of June, 1781, through its representative, Mr. Bratten, voted for the union.

It will be seen that Whitingham was in a dilemma, and hardly knew which way to go or what to do. The disturb-

ance between Vermont, New Hampshire and New York, had a tendency to unsettle political affairs throughout the State, and the town of Whitingham was without a competent leader to direct in properly transacting the business of the town. Everything was crude and unsatisfactory. The people were not familiar with accuracy in town affairs, as will be seen by the way they undertook to lay out a highway, in 1781, "from Wilmington line to Halifax line, beginning near a spruce stubb on the south line of Wilmington that is about one pole north of Sd Stubb."

The point of beginning in this case is somewhat essential, as the north boundary of Halifax and the south boundary of Wilmington were on a straight line and the two towns join only at the corner of each, therefore a highway might extend from Wilmington line to Halifax line without visible length, provided the "spruce stubb" stood on the line at the corner where Wilmington, Marlboro, Halifax and Whitingham touch each other. But boundary lines and lines run between farms were not supposed to be very accurate, and land was cheap, especially the uncultivated.

Money was almost unknown among the farmers. They even paid their taxes in produce at a very low price.

In 1786, the town made provision for paying taxes in the following manner:

"Voted that the town tax be paid in wheat at 4 s per bushel, Rey at 3 s., corn at 2 and 6, Oats at 1 and 6, Flax at 8 d, per pound, sugar 5 d. per pound."

Although pioneer life was not pleasant in many respects, there was constant call for unclaimed lands in Whit-

ingham, by those who desired to become permanent settlers.

On the 15th day of October 1857-600 acres of land were granted by Vermont to Jonathan Hunt and Arad Hunt, described as follows, viz: "Three lots in the town of Whitingham, being a part of three thousand acres of land granted to Capt. John Walker, said lots containing one hundred and ninety six acres in each lot and are numbered 2, 3 and 5, as expressed in a certain indenture of release made to the said Jonathan Hunt and Arad Hunt, by Samuel Wells."

This grant was made in such a way as to render the location doubtful, unless the three lots were more clearly defined than was customary in those days. The grant is as follows:

"THE GOVERNOR, COUNCIL and GENERAL ASSEMBLY of the
STATE OF VERMONT,
"TO ALL PEOPLE TO WHOM
THESE PRESENTS SHALL
COME: GREETING.

Know ye that whereas Jouathan Hunt and Arad Hunt Esquires, our worthy friends, have by petition requested and obtained a grant of land within this State for the purpose of Settlement.

We have therefore thought fit for the due encouragement of their laudable designs, and in consequence of their faithful performance of the conditions of the grant of land aforesaid, and do by these presents, in the name, and by the authority of the freemen of the State of Vermont, give and grant unto the aforesaid Jonathan Hunt and Arad Hunt their heirs and assigns forever, the Lots or Pieces of land hereafter bounded and described as follows, viz:

"Three lots in the Township of Whitingham, being a part of three thousand acres of land granted to Capt. John Walker, a reduced officer, said lots containing one hundred and ninety-six acres in each lot and are numbered two, three and five as expressed in a certain indenture of release made to the said Jonathan Hunt and Arad Hunt by Samuel Wells, and is contained in a grant made by the Legislature of this State to Messrs. Samuel Wells and the aforesaid Jonathan and Arad Hunt on the 22d. day of October, 1782, of three thousand acres of land in the aforesaid Whitingham, the aforesaid three lots of land containing in the whole six hundred acres or thereabouts, reserving to the use of the Public the usual allowance for highways.

To have and to hold the aforesaid lots and Pieces of land as above described, with all the priveliges and appurtenances belonging thereunto, the above said Jonathan Hunt and Arad Hunt and each of their respective heirs and assigns forever, their doing and performing the settlement and duty required by law on other Grants made by this State.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of this State to be affixed, this 15th, day of October, 1787.

THOMAS CHITTENDEN."

The people of Whitingham at this time, as a rule, were law-abiding, so far as they had any law to abide by; but habits of intoxication sometimes required a check from some official source in cases where the law could not be appealed to with satisfactory results.

In 1787 the people of Whitingham adopted a method unique in its conception and salutary in its application.

The number of cases treated by this humiliating process is unknown, but one specimen has been preserved and may be found among the town records, recorded by Amos Green, who was then town clerk. The selectmen who issued this suggestive hint were Samuel Day, Daniel Wilcox and Isaac Lyman. It has no parallel in municipal dictum and is as follows:

"Where as the mismanagement and bad conduct of A. B. —— of Whitingham in times Past has apparently Brought himself into such Difficulty that his Family may feel the fatal effects of it in many Instances, Particularly afor their Daly support, which to prevent we, the subscribers, Do agreeable to Law hereby take Inspectoin of S'd A. B.'s futer affairs under our Emediate Care, and hereby Notify the Publick that we act as Overseers on S'd A. B.'s futer affairs, and warn all that is or may be concerned with S'd A. B. to govern themselves accordingly.

Whitingham, June 30, 1786."

In 1790 an effort was made to secure a burial place, and the town "Voted to Except the land for a burying Place of Calvin Munn and fence the same with Posts and bowrds spiked on."

Nothing was done about the fence during the year and on the 7th of Mar. 1791. the town was not satisfied with the Munn lot and chose a Committee "to serch for a more convenient place."

Whether this committee found a place where they were willing to be buried does not appear, but the lot less than half a mile north of where the old meeting house stood was finally selected.

It was quite certain that a burial-place would soon be needed, and possibly "coming events cast their shad-

dows before," for in 1793, one fourth of the children in town died of scarlet fever.

Gambling and like devices were resorted to for the purpose of raising money for religious and charitable purposes. Churches, roads and bridges were built, repairing loss by fire and paying the State debt, by lottery; clearly showing the tendency of the human mind to be lured by expectation that something is liable to turn up.

These lotteries were not only legalized by towns, but the State was concerned in the same demoralizing business.

Vermont has passed 24 acts, granting lotteries for various purposes, the first being dated Feb 27th, 1783, and the last one Nov, 8th, 1804. Nov. 8th, 1792, an act was passed granting a lottery to raise 150£ for building a bridge over Deerfield River at Readsboro. I am glad to know that no church was ever built or repaired in Whitingham with money raised by lottery: and every good citizen had reason to rejoice when that method of doing evil that good might come was abandoned. It was thought that these lotteries had a tendency to relieve the burden of taxation, while it only changed the burden from one class to another, by bringing the gamblers to the front in charitable and religious work.

With all these artful methods for raising money, the town continued to grant special favors, such as the following: "Voted to raise a tax of one Penny on the Pound on the list of 1792, to be Paid to the treasurer by the first Day of June Next to Be Paid in town orders or Good Maple Sugar at six pence Pr Pound." There is no record to show how many town orders it took to weigh a pound.

It is to be presumed that the town meetings were legally called, but none of the warrents were recorded during the first 14 years.

The first recorded warrent for a town meeting was for the meeting held Mar. 3, 1794. The principal matter before that meeting was in relation to building a meeting-house.

Dec. 30, 1794, at a town meeting, Jonathan Hunt received 15 votes for member of Congress.

Mar. 9, 1795, the town "voted that Mr. Hazleton's Barn be a Pound for the present year. Voted that the Selectmen be directed to build a Pound 30 feet square of saw'd or hewn timber."

We might suppose by this time, after the town had been settled more than a quarter of a century, that very little unoccupied land would remain, but it seems that efforts continued to be made to acquire titles to large tracts of land by grant, in the town of Whitingham. The following document will give some idea of the progress of civilization in this town at the close of the last century:

**"THE GOVENOR, COUNCIL
and GENERAL ASSEMBLY of
the FREEMEN of the STATE of
VERMONT.**

To all people to whom these presents shall come, GREETING.— Know ye THAT WHEREAS our worthy friend Mr. Amos Green and Company to the number of sixteen have by petition requested a grant of unlocated Land within this State for the purpose of Settlement.

We have, therefore, thought fit for the due encouragement of their laudable design and for other valuable causes and considerations us hereunto moving, do

by these presents in the name and by the authority of the freemen of the State of Vermont, give, grant unto the said Amos Green & Company the tract of land hereafter bounded & described, to be divided into equal shares as follows, viz:— Samuel Moulton, Thomas Day, Samuel Day, James, Howard Seth Howard, Benjamin Nelson, Benjamin Blodget, Benjamin Blodget, Jr., Samuel Nelson, Solomon Moulton, Asaph White, William Nelson, Thomas Blodget, Abisha Blodget & Daniel Wallace, reserving three hundred acres out of said tract of land for the following public uses, viz:— one hundred acres for the use and benefit of a College within this State; one hundred acres for the use and support of a school or schools within said tract & one hundred acres for the use and support of the first settled minister of the gospel within said tract of land, to be disposed of for the sole & exclusive purpose aforesaid in such way and manner as the Proprietors or Inhabitants of said tract shall judge proper, the same to remain unalienable & the rents profits and moneys arising therefrom shall be appropriated to the several uses aforesaid, and the said three hundred acres shall be divided into three equal parts & be so laid out within said tract as to be equal in quality, and in such situation as will best answer the purposes for which they are reserved,

Which tract of land hereby given and granted as aforesaid is bounded & described as follows, viz:—

Beginning at the south west corner of Whitingham at a maple tree standing in the north line of the State of Massachusetts Bay 24 perches west of the west bank of Deerfield River & running south 81° & $30'$ east 290 chains to a spruce tree marked [*], then

$8^{\circ} 30'$ east 174 chains & 50 links
maple tree marked [*],
standing in the south line of Col.
Fitches grant, then north $81^{\circ} 30'$ west
290 chains to a stake & stones, then
south $8^{\circ} 30'$ west 174 chains and 50
links to the bounds began at, containing
five thousand and sixty acres and
80 perches,

Bounding south on the State of Massachusetts Bay, east on Col. Whiting's patent, north on Col. Fitches patent and west on Readshorouh, and that the same hereby incorporated into a district by the name of "*Whitingham Gore*," and that the inhabitants that do or shall hereafter inhabit said district are declared to be enfranchised and entitled to all the priviledges and immunities of citizens, and exercise all legal power and authority in support of their internal right as fully and amply and (?) other incorporated districts within this State do by law exercise and enjoy.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the said granted premises as expressed in the aforesaid grant with all the appurtenances thereunto belonging & appertaining to them and their respective heirs and assigns forever, upon the following conditions, viz: That each proprietor of the said district of *Whitingham Gore*, his heirs or assigns, shall plant and cultivate five acres of land and build a house at least eighteen feet square on the floor or have one family on each respective right within the term of four years from the time of surveying the outlines of said Gore, on the penalty of forfeiture of each respective share of land not so settled and improved as a-

* [*] The score mark of the tree here: the square-angle upward, a circle in the angle of the square and the hook on the circle; made with pen and ink in the charter where the star stands in brackets.

foresaid and the same to revert to the freemen of this State, to be by their Representatives re-granted to such persons as shall appear to settle and cultivate the same, that all pine timber suitable for a navy be reserved for the use and benefit of the freemen of this State.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF we have caused the seal of this State to be affixed at Rutland this 20 day of October anno Domini 1776 & in the 20th, year of our independence.

Witness our well beloved Thomas Chittenden Esquire, Govenor of our said State, Captain General & Commander-in-Chief of all the Militia of the same.

By his Excellency's Command
THOMAS CHITTENDEN.

TRUMAN SQUIRE Secretary."

If the New York patents were void, as some assert, why should they be al-luded to in the State grants?

Persons to whom land was granted in *Whitingham* by authority of Vermont, 1780 to 1766: 1780, Silas Hamilton, Thomas Stearns, John Butler, James Roberts, Abner Moor, James Angel, Charles Dodge, Eliphalet Hyde; 1781, Robert Bratton and seven others, whose names are unknown; 1782, Samuel Wells; 1787, Jonathan Hunt. Arad Hunt; 1796, Amos Green, Samuel Moulton, Thomas Day, Samuel Day, James Howard Seth Howard, Benjamin Nelson, Benjamin Blodgett, Benjamin Blodgett, Jr. Samuel Nelson, Solomon Moulton, Asaph White, William Nelson, Thomas Blodgett, Abisha Blodgett and Daniel Wallace. These grants were supposed to cover all the unoccupied land in the town.

The liberality of the town in allowing its citizens to pay their taxes in

"truck and dicker," and the raising of money by games of chance did not turn out to be a complete remedy for all the financial ills, and numerous farms were sold under the hammer.

May 30, 1798, the town collector, Amasa Shumway, held a great sale of land in Whitingham to satisfy demands for taxes. The exact condition of these sales does not appear to have been recorded. There were 75 lots sold at a cheap rate: 100 acres in lot No. 7 for \$1.37, and another lot of 79 acres for 98 cents. It would be interesting to know whether any of the titles under this sale were ever perfected.

1799.

The last year of the century was the most prosperous the town has ever seen. Large numbers were added to the population, log huts were abandoned and more modern houses built. The forests were cleared away, roads and bridges built, schools established and general thrift pervaded the town. The old meeting-house was built this year, which was a great relief to church goers, some of whom had waited thirty years for the good time to come when they might enjoy the pleasure of having a suitable place for the public worship of God. This house was made free to all denominations, by a vote of the town. The population at this time was 868.

WITCHCRAFT.

What was known as the "Salem witchcraft, two hundred years ago lingered in the minds of the people more than a century.

Near the close of the last century, there lived in the south-east part of Whitingham an elderly woman by the name of Lamphear, who had the uncomfortable reputation of being a witch.

When night came on the young and middle-aged, assembled at the fireside while some older and more experienced person would recount with an air of solemnity, the wonderful tradition and the most stupendous delusion the world ever saw. Their words would almost materialize the dark spirit of the evil one, and children and timid persons came to believe that witches were a part of the economy of Nature.

Some consoled themselves by constant companionship with a horse-shoe, while others were destined to suffer the most intense agony of mind and body while the old lady rode her phantom steed through the midnight air.

Julius Clark, a young man who lived near Mrs. Lamphear, claimed that he was bewitched by her and so thoroughly under her influence that he was unable to get off his bed for ten years. When the old lady died, he at once recovered and lived to old age.

Another man supposed himself to be one of her victims, and would exert himself in every possible way to avoid her influence. He was tormented in various ways, and visions of the old woman were constantly before him. One morning he went to his barn and found the stable turned over in such a way that the cattle were on their backs with feet in the air.

This man related numerous instances where the spirit of this harmless old woman was wont to revel among its victims, and his sincerity was not to be doubted, for he had never been led to believe that witchcraft could only exist in a distempered mind.

Whether a belief in witchcraft had a tendency to weaken the religious sentiment of the people is not clear, but about this time objection was made to

paying taxes for the support of a minister who did not preach the right doctrine, and the town, by vote made the way clear for unbelievers as follows:

"Voted that all persons who will come forward to the selectmen and declare that it is against their conscience to pay any sum of money for the purpose of hiring preaching, that it shall be the duty of the selectmen to abate their taxes."

Several persons filed a certificate for abatement, but I fail to find that any action was taken thereon. The following may be found in the town records

Whitingham, July 5 1802.

I do not agree in religious opinion with the majority of the inhabitants of this town."

Caleb Rider.

The struggle against an indiscriminate minister tax was of short duration, partly on the account of the action of some of its advocates.

It is said that a certain man in Heath, Mass., had his only cow taken to satisfy a minister tax, and that this proceeding was looked upon with so much indignation that no further effort was made in this vicinity to compel persons to pay for what they disbelieved.

Among the early settlers and those prominent in business and town affairs, near the close of the last century, were Nathan Green, James Roberts, Jabez Foster, Amasa Shumway, David Eames, James Reed, Reuben Lamphear, Francis Porter, Amos Green, Culvin Munn, Jonathan Hall, Baxter Hall, Reuben Brown, Amos Brown, Joshua Coleman, Samuel Day, Ambrose Stone, Samuel Parker, David Jillson, William Goodnow, Jesse Hull, John Roberts, Samuel Preston, Isaac Chase, Joshua

Newell, Abraham Chase, Abiather Winn, Levi Boyd, Martin Stickney, Abel B. Wilder, Eli Higley, Jeremiah Kingsbury, Samuel Martin, Hezekiah Murdock, Thomas Nelson and many others.

These men assisted in advancing the material prosperity of the town, and took special pride in the success of agricultural pursuits in which they were all more or less engaged.

THE CHURCHES.

On Mar. 26, 1781, the town voted "that the electmen shall run a Senter line through the town east and west, north and south, and Lay out two main roads as near the Senter Lines as the Land will allow of.

These roads crossed each other at James Reed's house, since known as the Eli Higley place.

At this time no effort had been made by the town to establish a church, but, June 24th, 1681, the first steps were taken by certain individuals for the erection of a house of public worship.—It appears that Wilmington, Marlboro and Halifax were interested in this enterprise, and persons from the four towns joined in signing a subscription paper to secure labor and materials for building the house.

The wording of this paper indicates that no organization had been formed of a sectarian character, but that the people felt the need of religious instruction and were willing to unite in a common effort to support a minister of the Gospel. This paper bears the names of some of the prominent men of Whitingham, as shown by the following, which is an exact copy:

"Whereas we the Subscribers being Desirous to have the Gospel propagated amongst us and our posterity Train-

ed up in The ways of Christianity have hereunto Set our Names with the labor &c. that we will give towards building a House of worship As Near the four Corners of Halifax, Molborough, Wilmington and Whitingham As may be a convenient spot found for to set said Meeting House Viz :

June ye 24th 1781.

Silas Hamilton six days work & one Thousand Boards.

Levi Hall six days work and one Thousand Boards.

James Roberts two days work.

James Gardner four days work.

Jonathan Rich six days work.

John Hall five days work.

Joel Hall six days work.

Israel Guil six days work.

Jasper Hunt four days work with a team & three thousand shingles.

James Cose four days work.

Rufus Cose four days work.

Levi Adams four days work.

Hazel Shepard six days work & one Thousand Boards.

Benjamin Barton two days work.

Repley Merril two days work.

Isaac Lyman four days work.

Amos Peabody ten days work.

John Wood one gallon rum.

Zebulon Ames Six days work.

Thos Hunt five days work."

Further preparations were made to secure ample room for the transaction of business and the location of the church on the 7th. of March, 1785 when the town voted "That the Road be Surveyed & Recorded ten rods wide that leads from Mr. Graves's westerly by the spot of Land Voted by the town

for the Place to build a meetinghouse, Sd wedth of rods beginning fifteen rods East of the meetinghouse place thence running west as the road is now laid to the road that leads through the town north and South,"

Jesse Graves lived at the foot of the hill near where the new road to Jacksonville intersects with the old road, a few rods easterly of where it passes between the site of the old church and the academy.

The southerly part of the lot east of where the old church stood and between there and the said new road was a part of the "ten rod" road, laid out in 1785.

This "ten rod" road was only about forty rods in length, and when the change was made under the survey of 1784, the land taken to make this wide road was on the northerly side of the original road.

On the 21st day of July 1788 the town voted "to meet on the second Monday of September next to clear "off a place to build a meetinghouse." It was six years before the town passed another vote relating to the church.

This contemplated house of worship was never built, though the subscription seems liberal for that time. After three years had passed away the people were not sure that the cross-roads indicated where the "Senter" of the town was, therefore, on the 1st. day of March 1784, the town voted "that the Selectmen find "the Senter of Said Town and make report at the Next March annuall Town Meeting."

If any report was made it was not recorded; but it is evident that the selectmen had been on the lookout to find a suitable place to build a church near the center of the town,

The above vote is probably the first action taken by the town, as such, towards locating a church. It appears that the selectmen had driven a stake where they thought the meeting-house ought to stand. This is indicated by a vote of the town passed on the 7th day of September, 1784, when it was voted "That the "Town will not except the spot the Selectmen put the "Stake for the Meetinghouse."

This stake was probably near where the church was finally built, for after rejecting this location the town voted "That the meetinghouse (be) Easterly from "James Reed's house about 60 or 70 Rod on the hill "Amongst the windfalls." Seventy rods easterly from James Reed's house would be some 50 rods east of where the church was built

During all this time, meetings were not regularly held, but now and then a preacher would find his way into this churchless community, many of whom were glad to welcome him to their homes, where they would invite their neighbors to listen to his spiritual teachings.

The first recorded warrant for a town meeting was for the meeting held, the 3rd. of March 1794. The time of this meeting was occupied in discussing matters relative to building a meeting-house. On the 6th. of July 1795 the town voted "That they will build a house for public worship 40 feet wide and 50 feet long, by a majority of 29 against 8."

Voted "to raise the amount of two hundred pounds in Timber, boards, shingles, and money, in the following manuer: Said timber boards and shingles sufficient to erect and cover said frame to be apportioned out in manner following, that each man that is liable

to be rated for the purpose of building sd. house shall have his proportion of timber, boards and shingles apportioned out to him by the committee to be appointed to superintend the building of sd. house, each of said articles to be apportioned to each man according to his list in sd. Town, and of what sort and dimention, and that whoever fails of delivering his proportion of timber set to him as aforesaid, at the place where the said house shall be built, by the first day of June 1796, shall be considered as having forfeited his privilege of providing such article or articles as he shall be deficient in at either of the times appointed as above for the delivery hereof and shall be liable to pay the money in lieu thereof. Voted, to appoint a committee of three persons to superintend the building of said House. Voted, that persons of every religious denomination have free access to and in said house on every day of the week without obstruction or molestation."

A committee was appointed consisting of Samuel Day, James Roberts, and Jabez Foster, two of whom, Roberts and Foster, were selectmen. Jesse Graves was Moderator.

Notwithstanding the location of the house by a former vote, on the 29th. day of September the town voted "that the meeting house be set on the height of land a few rods east of the school house in the center school district,"

The school house stood on the north side of what was called the "common", nearly apposite the hotel.

The preliminary arrangements for building a meeting house seems now to be complete, except making a contract with some person to perform the labor; but there was still opposition to the

scheme, and several influential men were arrayed against it.

On the 1st. day of Feb. 1896, an effort was made to reconsider the vote of July, 1795, but it failed by a vote of 22 to 18.

An attempt was then made to postpone the building for one year, which was lost by a vote of 14 to 8, On the 21st day of March 1798, the following plain proposition was presented to the voters:

"Will you build a meetinghouse?" the town voted "No," and this vote was supposed to annul the vote of July 6, 1795. A negative vote on the bare proposition "Will you build a meetinghouse?" was a surprise to many, for the reason that everybody knew that a house of public worship was needed, and that it was the duty of the town to build and support one.

Mar. 18, 1799, the town voted that the said house shall be built 45 feet by 50 on the ground, and that said house shall be completely finished, on the outside, painting excepted, and glazed; lower flowers Leyed, and Door made and Hung; to bee well boarded, clap-boarded and shingled, and as many, and as large Windows in proportion, and as well set, as they are in Wilmington meeting-house, and to be compleated on or before the first day of December Next."

"Voted, that said house shall be erected on the flat on the top of the Hill on the common East of the Centre School House in said Whitingham.

"Voted the building of said House be set up by the Moderator to the Lowest Bidder for one third cash and two-thirds Neat Stock, said cash to be paid on the first day of October."

"Voted that the Town Will Rasie six hundred and ninety Dollars to De-

fray the Expense of Building said House, to be Raised on the List of 1798."

"Voted to underpin the meeting-house With Stone Laid in Lime to be compleated as soon as the House is Ready for Raising."

This meeting-house was framed and raised during the summer and autumn of 1799 by Levi Couant of Halifax, and was finished off later by Justus Hall, also of Halifax.

When the frame was raised James Mc' Knight, the father of Parley Mc' Knight, stood on his head on the ridge-pole.

The contract for underpinning was put up at vendue, and David Eames bid it off for \$ 25,50.

Mar. 3, 1800, the town "voted that all Town meetings in futer shall Be Warned to be holden at the Meeting-house in Whitingham."

June 5th., the town "voted to accept the meeting-house that is Built in Said Town for a Town House."—
"Voted to accept the underpinning of said House."

The inside of this house was left unfinished, benches were used instead of pews. A portion of this meeting-house was used for a purpose other than peace or good will to men unless these virtues were enhanced by the smell of gun-powder.

Nov. 14, 1803, the town "voted to raise the money that is necessary to purchase the military stores necessary to supply the town as the law directs.

"Voted that the place to deposite said stock of ammunition shall be in the upper loft of the meeting-house in a chest to be made at the expense of the town for that purpose."

May 19 1806, a meeting was called to see if the Town will have a Porch or Porcher to adjoin the meeting house; and June 14th it was "voted that the town will have a Porch in front of the meeting house. The word Porcher may be found in the records of Whitingham, not elsewhere.

The proprietors had no pews to sell, but on the 14th day of Apr., 1806, the town "unanimously voted to sell the Pew Ground at Vendue, for the purpose of finishing the meeting house and that the construction of the meeting house shall be as follows, viz: One seat on the right and one on the left of the Broad Alley, and the remaining part of the floor to be converted into pews in the most convenient manner; and one tier of pews in the Gallery to be converted into seats in the most convenient manner. Chose Jonathan Hall, Amos Brown and Ambrose Stone Committee to sell and superintend the same. Hodgrass and Justus Hall were agreed upon as a committee of acceptance when the meeting house shall be finished."

It was understood that this meeting-house was for the use of all denominations.

These matters were regulated by the town. Apr. 10, 1809 the town "voted the Baptists shall have the use of the meeting house half the time for the space of one year 3 months alternately to be ended on the 10th day of April next."

This house stood on a hill, in a climate far from being mild in winter and yet it was used for religious purposes and town meetings during nineteen winters before there was any fire in it. No chimney was put in when the house was built; but time brought its changes

and on the 21st day of Dec. 1818, the town voted "to have a stove and pipe erected in the meeting house, provided it can be done by the proprietors thereof."

This edifice underwent no further change until 1834, when the pride of the people demanded a belfry and a bell. This luxury could not be indulged in by the town, therefore it was done by subscription and only a few persons participated. Alfred Green, Senior was the contractor, and Alfred Green, Jr. was the architect, who secured the services of David Jillson, Jr. to help put the last timbers on the top, and they were not molested in their work.

Advice had been free lower down, but at that altitude there was a singular dearth of courage, though no one was so much confused as to be unable to speak the English language. A fine bell was placed in this structure, the tones of which linger in my memory to-day. But the patriotism of Whitingham became so intense one fourth of July as to allow the bell to crack—some say by a blow with a sledge-hammer in the hands of Nehemiah Sprague whose devotion to liberty had become stronger than the bell. It was recast and used for awhile, after which it was carried to Sadawga by some unknown persons and subsequently hung in the belfry of the then Methodist church, (now Baptist) under an agreement that the church should never acquire a title to it by possession.

Not long after 1840, the decay of the old meeting-house became painfully perceptible, and finally it was abandoned for religious purposes, being only used as a town-house.

Efforts were made to have it kept in repair, and Hon. Parley Starr offered

to pay quite a sum for that purpose, but a favorable vote of the town could not be obtained, and it was abandoned. When the villages of Jacksonville and Sadawga became somewhat populous town-meetings began to be held in those places and the old house was left to the mercy of the elements.— Piece by piece it was carried away by relic hunters and those too lazy to furnish their own fire-wood until it was stripped of its inward beauty, its windows destroyed, its doors demolished, and the whole structure defaced.

When Whitingham celebrated its centennial in 1880, the east side of this house had been torn away, and the Speaker's stand erected close to, and partly within this open space.

The oration was delivered by Clark Jillson of Worcester, Mass., a native of Whitingham. His remarks in relation to the old meeting-house was as follows:

"Eighty one years ago to-day, this very spot was busy with the preparation for the erection of this grand old structure; the inhabitants of the town who have permitted the mutilation of its walls and allowed it to be shorn of its inward beauty—its unique pulpit, its square pews, its extensive galleries, so tastefully decorated, emblematic of New England life two hundred years ago—ought to be indicted for the desecration of the altars of their fathers.

Your modern churches, built to gratify the morbid tastes of those who worship fixtures more than the Deity, lack that spiritual presence that every person cannot but feel when he enters this consecrated temple. It was built by a sturdy race of men, living entirely by the labor of their own hands

but having brains sufficient to admit of a conscience. Two of your modern churches have had at least a private burial, while this ancient bulding still stands. If it had been left unoccupied and undisturbed, it would have outlived them all, standing upon this hill, a monument to the memory of our fathers, a memorial, of their unflinching integrity, their perseverance under stress of limited means, their unfaltering fidelity to the Christian faith and their willingness to do what they thought to be right.

Unless some prompt and judicious action is had by the town another eighty years will make it more difficult to tell precisely where this house stands than to point out with precision ~~many~~ an individual grave in yonder burial place; and yet this the spot where the result of industry and formerly the pride of the town, must soon perish. After the lapse of an other hundred years, this church, the academy and other historic stuctures will be known only in history. The skill of an artist could in no way be better employed than in placing beyond the reach of destruction the form of these important landmarks."

These prophetic words became true too soon. On the night of the 14th of October 1883, this house was cut down by some reckless vandal whose soul was steeped in the dregs of depravity, whose unholy work was too disgraceful to bear the light of day.

Farewell, dear, old landmark of our fathers! your presence was a benediction, your loss will be a perpetual sorrow.

Previous to building this church there had been preaching in town occassionly, by ministers of various denominations, resident and non-resident.

It is not known who preached the first or the last sermon in the old meeting-house, but probably it was occupied by nearly every minister who had preached in town or in the adjoining towns, at some time during its existence. One of these was

REV. DAVID LAMB,

who was born 1745. He was brought up a Congregationalist and fitted for college but the Baptists gained his attention, he embraced their views and did not go to college. His wife was Sarah Clark. They had four sons and two daughters.

At the age of forty, he was teaching school in Charlton, Mass. He moved from Charlton to Killingly Conn. and from there to West Springfield, Mass.

He was strict about the observance of the Sabbath and while in Killingly he preached so much truth on the subject of Sabbath breaking that his services were not in accord with his hearers, and he was asked to retire that freedom might prevail.

Soon after he had removed to West Springfield a revival broke out in Killingly and Elder Lamb was sent for. He was then master of the situation, his enemies having received light and were then prepared to shower their blessings on their heretofore discarded pastor.

Elder Lamb came to Whitingham in 1796, and resided here for more than twenty years. He died in August 1820, aged 75 years. He was in Whitingham three years before the old meeting-house was built and for twenty years after.

He was well educated and a forcible preacher, but was never settled in Whitingham.

His penmanship was beautiful and the following lines which I found written by his own hand shows the style of his composition and the burden of his thoughts.

Lord give me strength to die to sin,
To run the Christian race:
To live to God and glory,
The riches of his grace.

"My lovely Jesus while on earth,
Did rise before 'twas day,
And to a solitary place,
He went, and there did pray.

I'll do as did my blessed, Lord,
His footsteps I will trace;
I long to meet Him in the grove
And view his smiling Face.

And when my Soul has found her Love
I'll let him go no more:
But bring Him to my father's house
That all may him adore.

Now let all drowsiness be gone
Let me enjoy my Lord
And let my mind be swallowed up
In his eternal word.

If meditations all divine,
At midnight fill my Soul,
Sleep shall no longer, all my powers
And faculties control.

But I'll arise and sing and pray
And spend such hours of joy;
In praising Him whose Name doth all
My heart and tongue employ.

Yet if my nature doth require
With sleep a little rest;
Dear Jesus, let it be no more
Than Thou shalt think it best."

"Wrote in Whitingham November 27th 1808,
by David Lamb. In the 64th year of his age.

It is claimed that a Seventh Day Baptist church was organized in Whitingham about 1788, but I find no evidence to show beyond a doubt that such was the fact.

Elder Williams was of that denomination and for a few years promulgated his doctrines in this vicinity, but no considerable number of persons adhered to them.

End of Part First:- as far as now written.-Ed.



It is not known who preached the first or the last sermon in the old meeting-house, but probably it was occupied by nearly every minister who had preached in town or in the adjoining towns, at some time during its existence. One of these was

REV. DAVID LAMB,

who was born 1745. He was brought up a Congregationalist and fitted for college but the Baptists gained his attention, he embraced their views and did not go to college. His wife was Sarah Clark. They had four sons and two daughters.

At the age of forty, he was teaching school in Charlton, Mass. He moved from Charlton to Killingly Conn. and from there to West Springfield, Mass.

He was strict about the observance of the Sabbath and while in Killingly he preached so much truth on the subject of Sabbath breaking that his services were not in accord with his hearers, and he was asked to retire that freedom might prevail.

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